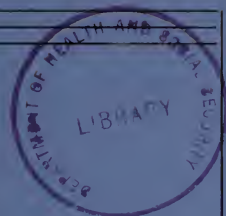


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**BISHOP AUCKLAND
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH
FOR
1969**

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of Council:

COUNCILLOR W. S. FAIRBAIRN, M.B.E., J.P., C.C.

(resigned 30th May, 1969).

ALDERMAN J. R. S. MIDDLEWOOD, O.B.E., J.P., D.L.

(appointed 1st July, 1969).

Chairman of Health Committee:

COUNCILLOR H. FAWCETT.

Councillors—

W. V. Archer.

M. Balmer, M.M.

C. Bell.

T. W. Best.

J. Callaghan.

T. Conlon.

V. O. Cooper.

G. R. Cosgrove, J.P.

T. F. Crowther.

M. Dodds.

O. Douthwaite.

D. Edkins, F.V.I.

J. Gordon.

R. Gudmensen.

D. R. Harburn.

Mrs. H. M. Harrison.

D. J. Hebden.

R. Hindmarch, C.C.

J. W. Hodgson.

H. Hutchinson.

G. S. Liddell.

C. Middlewood, C.C.

R. W. Priestman.

H. Robson.

T. Robson.

W. Ruddock.

R. Siddle.

S. Snowball.

G. W. Steadman.

H. Stephenson, J.P.,

F.I.O.B.

H. Vart.

W. H. Walker.

C. Wood.

G. A. York.

Clerk of the Council:

J. R. PASSEY, LL.B., L.A.M.T.P.I.

Health Department Staff

Medical Officer of Health—

E. M. OSBORNE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.R.C.O.G.

Also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District Council of Sildon, the Rural District Council of Darlington, and Principal Senior Medical Officer for Durham County Council.

Chief Public Health Inspector—

R. SNOWDON, D.P.A. (LOND.), D.M.A., M.INST.P.C., M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.,
DIP. (HONS.), R.I.P.H.H., DIP. S.A.A.

Qualified Public Health Inspector, Meat and Other Foods Inspector.
Smoke Inspector and Shops Act Inspector.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector—

R. BARRASS, T.D., M.A.P.H.I., DIP. R.I.P.H.H.,

Qualified Public Health Inspector and Meat and Other Foods Inspector.

District Public Health Inspectors—

P. J. NAYLOR,

Qualified Public Health Inspector and Meat and Other Foods Inspector.

E. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I.,

Qualified Public Health Inspector, Meat and Other Foods Inspector
and Smoke Inspector.

Office—

T. K. CROSBY, Clerk.

Miss DORREEN ROCHE, Shorthand Typist.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1969

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for 1969.

The birth rates continues to fall slightly each year, being 16.6 compared with 16.9 in 1968 and 17.9 in 1967. Unfortunately the percentage of illegitimate live births rose to 9 compared with 6.18 in 1968.

The death rate decreased to 13.4 compared with 13.82 in 1968; 112 of the 409 deaths were in the age group 65—74 and 165 were 75 and over.

The number of deaths from cancer of all parts of the body fell by 18 to 62, there being no cases of leukaemia during the year. There were two more deaths from carcinoma of the lung in men this year, whilst the corresponding number for women fell by three.

The number of those dying from coronary disease and angina this year rose by five in women to 44, the male figure remaining the same at 65.

Deaths from motor vehicle accidents rose to four (two in 1968) whilst those due to all other accidents remained the same at six. Unfortunately, there were four suicides compared with one in 1968.

The infantile mortality rate has fallen once again and still remains lower than that for England and Wales (16 compared with 18). The neo-natal mortality rate has also fallen appreciably (11 compared with 15.44 in 1968). This was also lower than the national rate of 12.

Nine children died in the first 12 months of life, six of these in the first four weeks. Congenital anomalies accounted for two of the early deaths and birth injury for three, whilst the remainder of infant deaths were due to diseases of the respiratory system.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Notifications of new cases of tuberculosis were down to 11 this year from 20. There was one death from tuberculosis occurring in an old lady who died of broncho-pneumonia which was not diagnosed as tubercular until after her death. Contacts were followed up here but no further cases were discovered.

The Mass Miniature Radiography Unit visited Bishop Auckland twice during the year and a total of 2,068 people made use of the facilities. As a result seven persons were referred to the Chest Clinic and 12 to their own doctors. One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was discovered and one case of bronchial carcinoma.

Notifications of infectious diseases increased to 484 this year (145 in 1968) largely due to the number of cases of measles (438). This disease tends to be of biennial occurrence, and if we look at previous alternate years we see there were 657 cases in 1967, 765 in 1965, and 664 in 1963. Vaccination against measles was held up in March, 1969, when it was reported that vaccine prepared from the Beckenham 31 strain had been responsible for a small number of cases of encephalitis, and this type was withdrawn. As the alternative Schwarz strain was in short supply, it was impossible to start a campaign in the schools, but it is hoped to carry this out early next year.

No cases of dysentery were notified but a small outbreak of food poisoning was responsible for three mild cases which were limited to the family concerned. In retrospect this may have been caused by undercooked sausage, but as none of the suspected food was available for examination this must be purely conjective.

We have still kept clear of poliomyelitis and diphtheria, but there were 18 cases of whooping cough (compared with nine last year). This shows that our efforts to immunise all children against the disease must be increased.

B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis continues to be carried out in the first year at the Secondary Schools; 431 children received their vaccination during the year.

Ninety-six staff and workmen of the Council were vaccinated against influenza at the end of the year, an increase of 41 over 1968. During the winter of 1969-70 it is proposed to carry out a survey on all staff to find out what protection the vaccine has given, and this will be reported on next year.

The Meals on Wheels Service continues to supply 24 meals to old people twice a week, for which we continue to be grateful to all helpers. At the end of the year there was a waiting list of ten.

The Meals from Neighbours service is used in the villages and also in the town in cases of emergency; 202 meals were cooked by helpful neighbours (compared with 177 last year). We are very grateful to the Red Cross who run this service for us.

They also continue to run a very successful Over-70 Tea Club, catering for 40 persons once a week, with a waiting list of 20.

The Red Cross also run a chiropody service which during the year has given 537 treatments. We are very grateful to the chiropodist who gives her services free. It has been found recently that some of the older people who rarely go out find it increasingly difficult to get along to the chiropody clinic and really require treatment at home. Because of shortage of chiropodists the County is at present unable to run such a scheme, so in November the Council decided to grant £50 annually for this service using their powers under the Local Government Act, 1963, Section VI. The services of a local chiropodist were secured and the first two patients, a woman of 96 and one of 75, commenced their treatment in December. In this way we hope to make life a little more comfortable for our house-bound senior citizens.

As usual, the Old People's Welfare Committee continued to visit the aged and lonely. They distributed Christmas parcels assisted by the various voluntary organisations in the town.

During the year two warden bungalow schemes were completed at St. Helen Auckland. The Square comprises 24 one-bedroomed and six two-bedroomed houses, and the Finchale Square, Selby Close and Melrose Drive complex 14 one-bedroomed and 34 two-bedroomed houses. All bungalows are in communication with the wardens' flats. Most of the old people have settled down quickly in their new accommodation and in the care of our excellent wardens seem to have gained a new lease of life.

The number of people provided with a home help during the year was 407 (369 in 1968).

One hundred and sixteen houses were built by the Council; 149 by private enterprise, four by Durham County Council, and one house was converted into flats and four converted from other premises, making a total of 274 new houses. In 1968, 272 houses were built.

The swimming baths still retain their popularity, and during the year there were 206,310 swimmers and 24,339 spectators. Repeated sampling of the water during the year showed no contamination.

In giving my report I should like to thank the Council for all their help and assistance, and my staff for their efficient hard work during the year.

Area and Social Conditions.

The area of the district is 9,336 acres. The estimated population in mid-1969 was 34,480, a decrease of 260 on the previous year's estimate.

The rateable value at the end of 1969 was £1,089,471, and the product of a penny rate was £4,215.

The number of houses according to the Council's rate book was, at the end of 1969, 11,428.

Vital Statistics.

In the following extracts from the vital statistics of the district, the corrected figures as supplied by the Registrar General have been used and the rates quoted are based on the above-mentioned estimated population.

Live Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate ...	513	263	250
Illegitimate ...	51	20	31
TOTAL ...	564	283	281

Comparability Factors—Births	...	...	1.01
Deaths	...	...	1.13
Standard Birth Rate for the District	...	...	16.6
Standard Rate for England and Wales	...	...	16.3

Births.

The total number of live and still births was:

570; 286 Males; 284 Females.

Illegitimate live births total 51; 20 Males; 31 Females.

Illegitimate live births as a percentage of total live births= 9 per cent. England and Wales 8 per cent.

Still Births.

Still Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate ...	5	2	3
Illegitimate ...	1	1	—
TOTAL ...	6	3	3

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ... 11
 Rate for England and Wales ... 13
 Total live and still births 570; 286 Males, 284 Females.
 Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year) 9; 3 Males, 6 Females.

Infant Mortality Rates.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ... 16
 For England and Wales per 1,000 total live births... 18
 Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 18
 For England and Wales per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 17
 Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... Nil
 For England and Wales per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 25

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.

Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births ... 11
 England and Wales ... 12
 Legitimate ... Total 6 1 Male 5 Females
 Illegitimate ... Total 0

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.

Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births ... 7
 England and Wales ... 10
 Legitimate ... Total 4 0 Males 4 Females
 Illegitimate ... Total 0

Perinatal Mortality Rate.

Still births and deaths under 1 week combined per			
1,000 live and still births	...	...	18
England and Wales	...	...	23

Deaths.

After correction for outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths a total of 409 (219 males and 190 females) deaths of residents was recorded during the year, giving a standard death rate of 13.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales as a whole in 1969 was 11.9.

The following table gives the number of deaths recorded from the various causes during the year.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system ...	—	1	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	—	1
(1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc. ...	—	1	1
(2) Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ...	—	2	2
(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	9	5	14
(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	4	7	11
(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	14	1	15
(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	—	5	5
(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	—	6	6
(9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate...	5	—	5
(10) Leukaemia ...	1	—	1
(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms ...	17	5	22
Diabetes Mellitus ...	4	3	7
Anaemias ...	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	—	4	4
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	—	8	8
Hypertensive Disease ...	5	6	11
Ischaemic Heart Disease ...	65	44	109
Other forms of Heart Disease ...	10	9	19
Cerebrovascular Disease ...	29	37	66
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	7	18	25
Influenza ...	2	1	3
Pneumonia ...	8	9	17
Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	19	4	23
Asthma ...	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	1	3
Appendicitis ...	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Genito-Urinary System ...	1	1	2
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	1	—	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	—	1
Congenital Anomalies ...	—	2	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ...	—	3	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	2	2	4
All other Accidents ...	4	2	6
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries ...	4	—	4
TOTAL ...	219	190	409

The table on Causes of Death is based upon information supplied by the Registrar General.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths from the various infectious diseases (excluding tuberculosis) which occurred during 1969.

Disease.	Total cases notified	Total number after corrected diagnosis	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Infective Jaundice ...	1	1	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	28	28	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	436	434	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	18	18	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	3	3	—	—
TOTAL ...	486	484	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows in arrangement by age groups the number of new cases notified and of deaths from tuberculosis occurring in the district during the year.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2- 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5- 9 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-74 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
75 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1969 ...	8	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
1968 ...	11	8	1	—	—	1	1	—
1967 ...	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
1966 ...	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1965 ...	8	3	—	3	1	1	—	1
1964 ...	7	4	—	2	2	—	1	—
1963 ...	7	7	—	2	—	—	—	—
1962 ...	9	6	1	—	4	—	1	—
1961 ...	12	8	4	3	2	3	—	—
1960 ...	3	4	3	1	2	2	—	—

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY

Details of the Unit's visit are as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
Number X-rayed ...	832	1236	2068
Number referred to Doctor ...	?	?	12
Number referred to Chest Clinic	3	4	7

Abnormalities Found

Referred to Chest Clinic—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis, not notified ...	1
Bronchial Carcinoma ...	1
Pumonary Fibrosis (healed) ...	2
Pulmonary Emphysema ...	1
Retro-sternal Goitre ...	1
Normal on Investigation ...	1
	7

Referred to Private Doctor—

Pulmonary Fibrosis (healed) ...	3
Pneumoconiosis ...	3
Cardial Abnormalities ...	6
	12

WATER

The Durham County Water Board took 50 samples of water during the year for bacteriological examination. The Board supplies 11,562 houses directly from the mains, no house being supplied from a standpipe. No case of contamination occurred in the district and the supply was satisfactory in quantity, and quality was maintained. So far as is known, no houses are without a piped water supply.

Chlorination is carried out after all mains repairs and bacteriological tests are made until a satisfactory result is obtained.

Only natural fluoride is present in the water and varies from 0.45 p.p.m. to 0.1 p.p.m.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Extensions and modifications of the main works commenced in 1968 have still not been completed. Slow delivery of various machine parts is apparently the cause of this disappointing fact and it is hoped that the completion date will now be early in 1970.

SEWERAGE

The sewerage system continues to work satisfactorily and, with the exception of a fracture of the trunk sewer from West Auckland due to river action, no major construction or reconstruction has been necessary.

SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The following children were immunised during the year in their homes, doctors' surgeries, County clinics or schools.

375 children received primary full courses of immunisation treatment.

656 children received "booster" doses, either singly or in combination.

(b) Whooping Cough.

218 children were vaccinated against Whooping Cough either singly or in combination. The administration of combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria injections has naturally lowered the numbers of single injections against each disease alone.

255 "booster" doses were administered.

(c) Smallpox Vaccination.

211 primary vaccinations and three re-vaccinations were carried out during the year.

(d) Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The number of vaccinations carried out during the year was as follows:—

364 primaries.

547 boosters.

(e) B.C.G. Vaccinations.

551 children were Heaf tested.

74 children were positive;

434 children were negative, and

431 children were vaccinated.

These figures apply to children attending schools in the Bishop Auckland Urban District.

Of the three children who were not vaccinated, one refused; one was suffering from Psoriasis, and one from Eczema.

(f) Tetanus Vaccinations.

The number of vaccinations given to persons under 16 years of age was as follows—

440 primaries.

691 boosters.

(g) Measles.

184 children were vaccinated.

(h) Home Help Service.

Number of cases receiving Home Help at 1/1/69	...	278
New cases served during the year	... ..	129
Total number of cases provided with help during year...		407
Cases terminated during the year	... ..	115
Cases receiving the service at 31/12/69	... ..	292

MEAT INSPECTION

During the year the carcasses and organs of 9,858 animals were inspected in the course of 543 visits to the two remaining slaughterhouses. A third slaughterhouse at Etherley Dene closed down at the end of 1968.

The number of animals slaughtered and inspected was 1,710 less than 1968.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number slaughtered ...	1315	311	20	4974	3238
Number Inspected ...	1315	311	20	4974	3238
1. TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Parts of carcasses condemned ...	—	2	—	—	41
Percentage condemned ...	—	0.6	—	—	1.2
2. CYSTICERCOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Parts of carcasses condemned ...	10	3	—	—	—
Percentage condemned ...	0.3	0.3	—	—	—
Number of carcasses refrigerated ...	4	—	—	—	—
3. OTHER DISEASES					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	2	—	—	—
Parts of carcasses condemned ...	421	101	1	301	785
Percentage condemned ...	15.9	16	5	6	13.3

In addition the following carcase meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

1280 lb. Beef.
191 lb. Mutton and Lamb.
475 lb. Pork.

MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS, 1963

All slaughtered animals were examined in the manner prescribed by the Regulations, and the carcasses of those found to be fit for human consumption were stamped by the inspecting officer.

The charges imposed brought an income of £447 15s. 6d.

The income from meat inspection since the Regulations came into force is:—

1964	...	£525	6s.	6d.
1965	...	£432	3s.	3d.
1966	...	£732	2s.	6d.
1967	...	£708	19s.	3d.
1968	...	£580	17s.	6d.
1969	...	£447	15s.	6d.
TOTAL		£3,427	4s.	6d.

ICE CREAM

Sixty-nine samples were taken in 1969 to the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton, and graded for purity. The 1969 grades are shown in comparison with previous years.

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	Total
Grade 1	2	11	24	10	13	12	8	8	14	16	118
Grade 2	6	4	8	6	9	7	3	3	12	12	70
Grade 3	3	12	4	1	2	4	1	—	6	15	48
Grade 4	4	11	8	3	2	3	2	2	18	26	79
Totals	15	38	44	20	26	26	14	13	50	69	315

MILK (Special Designation) REGULATIONS, 1960

Milk samples are taken by the County Public Health Inspector, and the results for the Urban District (for eight months only) in 1969 were—

Designation	Number Examined	Tests Applied	Test Results		
			Passed	Void	Failed
Pasteurised	132	Methylene Blue Phosphatase	125	7	—
Sterilised	14	Turbidity	14	—	—
Untreated	19	Methylene Blue Biological Anti-Biotic	18	—	—
			6	—	—
			17	—	—

FOOD PREMISES

One hundred and eighty-three visits were made to food premises, and it was necessary to serve 30 notices to remedy defects and/or supply amenities.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

At 31st December, 1969, the total number of premises registered was 284, all of which had received a General Inspection.

(a) Registration and Inspections.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered during the year.	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year.	No. of Registered Premises receiving a General Inspection during the year.	No. of Notices Served.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Offices	9	82	10	9
Retail Shops ...	11	172	21	16
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ...	1	10	3	3
Catering Establishments, open to the public: Canteens	—	19	5	5
Fuel Storage Depots...	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	21	284	39	33

(b) Persons Employed.

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of Persons Employed (2)
Offices	749
Shops	1,595
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	79
Catering Establishments open to the public: Canteens	120
Fuel Storage Depots	5
TOTAL ...	2,548

Total Males 907; Total Females 1,641.

FACTORIES

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to Health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Prosecu- tions (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	139	32	11	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	8	3	—	—
TOTAL ...	150	38	12	—

FACTORIES

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosec's were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	1	1	—	1	—
(a) Insufficient	9	8	—	8	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	10	9	—	9	—

HOUSING

(a) Clearance Areas.

Fourteen Clearance Areas were reported to the Council for subsequent transmission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The areas were:—

Clearance Area	Number of Houses
1. South Church Road, Bp. Auckland, No. 22 ...	5
2. Hillside Road, Coundon, No. 17 ...	18
3. Church Street, Coundon, No. 18 ...	6
4. Toadpool, West Auckland, No. 18 ...	10
5. The Nursery, West Auckland, No. 19 ...	6
6. Station View, West Auckland, No. 20 ...	5
7. Front Street, West Auckland, No. 21 ...	3
8. Post Office Square, West Auckland, No. 22 ...	13
9. Staindrop Road, West Auckland, No. 23 ...	5
10. Auckland Road, South Church, No. 7 ...	3
11. Auckland Road and Main Street, South Church, No. 8 ...	7
12. Main Street, South Church, No. 9 ...	6
13. Main Street, Crown Street and Crown Yard, South Church, No. 10 ...	15
14. Old Forge Cottages, South Church, No. 11 ...	4

In addition two Council owned houses,
viz. 5 and 6 Old Forge Cottages, South
Church, were declared unfit.

TOTAL ...	108
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(b) Individual Orders.

Housing Act Orders were made in respect of:—

Houses	Order Made
5 Newton Cap Bank, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing
22 Southgate Street, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing
14 Brook Street, Coundon Grange ...	Demolition
32 Main Street, South Church ...	Closing
1 Park Terrace, Witton Park ...	Closing
43 Gibbon Street, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing
3 Old Forge Cottages, South Church ...	Closing
3 Low Thompson Street, Witton Park ...	Closing
19 Front Street, West Auckland ...	Closing
36 Edward Street, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing
8 Gomer Terrace, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing
16 Brook Street, Coundon Grange ...	Demolition

8 Toadpool, West Auckland ...	...	Closing
1 Station View, West Auckland ...	...	Closing
3 High Thompson Street, Witton Park ...	...	Demolition
5 Greenwell's Garth, Coundon ...	...	Closing
2 Park Terrace, Witton Park ...	...	Closing
28 Collingwood Street, Coundon ...	...	Closing
15 High Tinters Street, Bishop Auckland ...	...	Closing
25 Main Street, South Church ...	...	Closing
4½ Southgate Street, Bishop Auckland ...	...	Demolition
37 Frederick Street, Bishop Auckland ...	...	Demolition
3 Frederick Street, Bishop Auckland ...	...	Closing
4 Station Flat, Bishop Auckland ...	...	Closing
1a Vulcan Street, Witton Park ...	...	Demolition
2 Old Forge Cottages, South Church ...	...	Closing
7 Toadpool, West Auckland ...	...	Undertaking
21 Collingwood Street, Coundon ...	...	Demolition
23 Collingwood Street, Coundon ...	...	Demolition
12b West Bridge St., Bishop Auckland ...	...	Closing
7 Victoria Lane, Coundon ...	...	Closing
9 North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland ...	...	Closing
21a Staindrop Road, West Auckland ...	...	Closing

A TOTAL OF 33 HOUSES

The following were reported to the Council as unfit, but Orders had not been made by the end of the year.

- 6 Greenwell's Garth, Coundon.
- 83a Front Street, West Auckland.
- 7 Thomas Street, Auckland Park.

(c) Houses where Defects were Remedied.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(i) After informal action ...	102	—
(ii) After formal action ...	37	43

2. HOUSING ACTS.

(d) Rent Act, 1957.

Not one application received.

(e) Inspections.

- (i) Under Public Health and Housing Acts ... 2,439
- (ii) Under Acts relating to Improvement Grants ... 145

The above inspections show a substantial increase over 1968. Toward the autumn of 1969 a survey of houses was started—under the provisions of the 1969 Housing Act—to determine “life” of houses in the Urban area.

(f) Houses Demolished or Closed.

	Demolished or Closed	Rehoused	
		Persons	Families
1. In Clearance Areas— Houses unfit for habitation	143	290	101
2. Not in Clearance Areas— Action under Section 17 (i) Housing Act, 1957 ...	14	10	3
3. Unfit Houses Closed— Action under Section 16 (4) and 17 (i) Housing Act, 1957	21	61	19

(g) Improvement of Houses.

	Discretionary Grant	Standard Grant
(i) Number of applications submitted in 1969	67	27
(ii) Number of applications rejected	—	3
(iii) Total number of applications approved since inception ...	385	466
(iv) Total number of grants paid since inception	329	411

(h) New Houses.

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Built by Council	63	—	40	245	332	146	201	116
Built by Private Enterprise ...	56	63	123	22	61	99	64	149
Built by Durham County Council...	8	3	—	—	1	—	4	4
Converted into Flats	2	11	—	—	1	4 to 8 Flats	2 to 4 Flats	1
Converted from other Premises ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	4
TOTALS ...	129	77	163	268	395	250	272	274

(i) Rehousing—Housing Allocations.

	New Dwellings	Re-Lets of Existing Accommoda- tion	Total
Slum Clearance ...	37	89	126
General List ...	11	31	42
Aged Persons List ...	24	3	27
Keyworkers ...	9	15	24
Transferred Sitting Tenants ...	35	36	71
TOTALS ...	116	174	290

(ii) Overcrowded Families.

Of the 290 families rehoused during the year, 82 were statutorily overcrowded.

(iii) Families Suffering from Tuberculosis.

Two cases were rehoused in 1969.

(j) House Waiting Lists.

As at 31st December, 1969.

Category of Applicant	Tenants	Sub- Tenants	Total
General Waiting List ...	292	154	446
Aged Persons Waiting List ...	269	14	283
TOTALS ...	561	168	729

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH SUMMARY

Visits made by Public Health Inspectors				Number of
Particulars.				Visits.
Factories Act ...	...	...	...	38
Public Health Acts ...	...	...	...	915
Housing Acts ...	...	...	...	1,524
Grants—Improvements ...	...	...	...	145
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	...	...	...	24
Drainage ...	...	...	...	175
Conversions ...	...	...	...	2
Public Cleansing ...	...	...	...	463
Food Premises ...	...	...	...	183
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	86
Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	...	543
Clean Air Act ...	...	...	...	11
Civic Amenities Act ...	...	...	...	160
Animals' Acts ...	...	...	...	6
TOTAL ...				4,275

Number of Interviews—681.

CONVERSIONS TO WATER CARRIAGE SYSTEM

Two ash closets were converted to water carriage. At the end of the year—due to conversions, demolitions, improvements and the erection of new houses—the numbers of the various sanitary conveniences in the Urban District were as follows:—

Water Closets	...	...	13,390
Ash Closets	...	...	246

Since 1954, 2,127 conversions have been carried out.

CONVERSIONS

Year	Owners	Local Authority	Total
1954	110	317	427
1955	117	34	151
1956	115	232	347
1957	57	188	245
1958	70	271	341
1959	61	92	153
1960	59	—	59
1961	42	—	42
1962	40	161	201
1963	16	79	95
1964	20	—	20
1965	6	—	6
1966	2	30	32
1967	5	—	5
1968	1	—	1
1969	2	—	2
TOTALS	723	1,404	2,127

RODENT CONTROL

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of Properties in District	13,867	69
2. (a) Total number of properties inspected following notification	287	14
(b) Number infested by—		
(i) Rats	245	12
(ii) Mice	42	2
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	71	3
(b) Number infested by—		
(i) Rats	65	3
(ii) Mice	6	—

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON PUBLIC CLEANSING

In previous years reference has been made to the ever-changing nature of domestic and trade refuse due in the main to the quantities of packaging materials now in use. This presents difficulties not only in the storage of refuse, but also in its collection and disposal. Fortunately, the Council have given positive consideration to these problems and steps are being taken to at least contain, if not completely overcome, them.

At the risk of annual tautology, it must be emphasised that we need continuously to seek ways of improving the service by overcoming the effects of lost effective time, that is, time that is lost due to various factors and so reducing the actual time for collecting refuse.

House Refuse Collections.

During the year the Council decided to further implement the paper sack system for storage and collection.

All new Council houses will in future be provided with a sack holder, and at existing Council houses the dustbins will be replaced at a rate of 500 each year.

By December, 1969, there were 805 sack holders in use.

A further 87 ash closets were eliminated in the year, due almost entirely to the demolition of unfit houses.

At the end of 1969 we were collecting weekly, refuse from more than 11,000 dustbins (domestic), removing 805 paper sacks and cleansing 246 ash closets. Added to this is all the extra refuse that invariably is found beside each dustbin.

Trade Refuse.

At commercial and industrial properties collections vary from once weekly to once daily.

Trade refuse collections must be charged for, and the current charge, fixed in 1962, is 9d. for each bin in excess of one. Where the collection is not regular a charge is made on a Labour/Vehicle time basis.

The number of commercial and industrial bins collected each week is almost 2,000.

Civic Amenities Act, 1968.

There has been a large increase in the amount of work involved in collecting large bulky items such as furniture and mattresses. In 1968 there were 192 special collections—this increased to 283 in 1969.

The number of abandoned cars that have been removed, following action by the Department, since the Act came into operation, is 93.

Vehicles.

The Council have decided that, over a four-year period, the existing side loading vehicles (Bantams) should be replaced by larger, more economic pay load, machines.

In 1969 the first replacement was put into operation. This was a Norba rear loading impeller screw vehicle, with a carrying capacity of 48 cu. yards and a 3 : 1 compaction rate.

All vehicles are regularly maintained by the Council's two mechanics. It is evident, however, that with the new, high, statutory standards of vehicle maintenance that will be required when the Ministry of Transport regulations come into force, more time devoted to detailed inspections will be necessary.

A planned vehicle maintenance programme is in the course of preparation which will mean that all vehicles will receive a regular monthly inspection to Ministry standards, and possibly a greater degree of parts replacement.

Whether additional labour will be necessary will be a question only determined by experience.

Refuse Disposal.

Earlier in the year the Health Committee discussed future refuse disposal problems following my report on alternative methods of refuse disposal by mechanical means.

Particularly considered were the two main factors affecting the future of refuse disposal, the first being the changing composition of the refuse—already referred to—and secondly the difficulty of finding suitable sites for the tipping of crude refuse.

Three methods of disposal were considered, namely composting, pulverisation and incineration. It was ultimately resolved to accept in principle that disposal of refuse should be by incineration and that adjacent local authorities should be invited to discuss with a sub-committee the possibility of a joint disposal scheme.

In the meantime all refuse is tipped at the Council's refuse tip at Gurney Valley.

Disposal charge remains at 7s. 6d. per load and 311 private loads were received at the tip in 1969.

Salvage.

In 1969, 49 tons 10 cwt. of paper salvage were despatched to Board Mills or Paper Merchants. The reduced tonnage is mainly accounted for by the loss of time available for collection, sorting and baling due to a relatively high sickness level, and a high activity rate among private firms competing for this material.

Dispatch of Salvage

Date	No. Bales	Grade	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.
14- 2-69	34	Mixed Paper	...	17	3
	115	Fibreboard	...	8	16
18- 2-69	107	Mixed Paper	...	7	17
29- 4-69	182	Fibreboard	...	12	3
11- 8-69	140	Mixed Paper	...	9	16
27-11-69	154	Fibreboard	...	10	0
TOTAL ...			49	10	0

Paper Tonnage Despatched 1957-1968

			Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.
1957	...	...	40	0	0
1958	...	...	51	9	0
1959	...	...	73	2	0
1960	...	...	168	14	0
1961	...	...	170	6	1
1962	...	...	159	17	0
1963	...	...	196	19	3
1964	...	...	181	18	3
1965	...	...	140	16	1
1966	...	...	99	9	1
1967	...	...	84	2	2
1968	...	...	70	5	2
1969	...	...	49	10	0
TOTAL	...	...	1486	10	1

Income

(a) Waste paper and Fibreboard	...	£494	11	6
(b) Trade Refuse	...	£1,164	16	6
(c) Disposal Charges	...	£116	12	6
		£1,176	0	6

Total income from all sources since 1958 was—£25,724 12s. 3d.

Income 1957-1969

Year	Paper Sales			Trade Refuse			Total		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1957 ...	290	12	6	122	7	10	413	0	4
1958 ...	318	3	9	261	1	3	579	5	0
1959 ...	633	7	6	399	16	0	1,033	3	6
1960 ...	1,133	8	0	656	13	0	1,790	1	0
1961 ...	1,128	14	6	1,015	5	0	2,143	19	6
1962 ...	1,359	7	9	1,034	9	0	2,393	16	9
1963 ...	1,575	7	3	1,156	8	1	2,731	15	4
1964 ...	1,455	17	6	1,258	19	9	2,714	17	3
1965 ...	1,326	7	2	1,179	0	6	2,505	7	8
1966 ...	929	5	0	785	3	4	1,714	8	4
1967 ...	799	10	11	758	8	7	1,557	19	6
1968 ...	623	19	3	859	10	8	1,483	9	11
1969 ...	494	11	6	1,164	16	6	1,659	8	0
TOTALS	£12,068	12	7	£10,651	19	6	£22,720	12	1

Staff.

The following table shows days lost due to sickness, absenteeism and holidays in 1969.

Month	Sickness	Absent	Holidays	Total
January ...	52½	27	—	79½
February ...	51	8	1	60
March ...	35	18	18	71
April ...	74½	7½	21	103
May ...	70	6¾	49	125¾
June ...	51	8	45	104
July ...	40½	16	90	146½
August ...	64¼	6	98	168¼
September ...	19¾	13¾	39	72½
October ...	33	20	36	89
November ...	5½	18	11	34½
December ...	38½	7	—	45½
TOTALS ...	535½	156	408	1,099½

Time lost due to sickness and absenteeism in 1969 was 691½ days.

The following table compares with the preceding 10 years the time lost due to sickness in 1969.

Month	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Jan. ...	5	31	30	35	16	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	67	73	64	99	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
Feb. ...	56	54	84	109	25	99	73	81	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	67	51
Mar. ...	37	15	31	54	31	59	91	82	39	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	35
April ...	54	13	48	60	13	74	84	28	99	68	74 $\frac{1}{2}$
May ...	47	21	42	88	1	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	60	27	121 $\frac{1}{2}$	76	70
June ...	7	—	50	41	5	55 $\frac{1}{4}$	100	—	77	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	51
July ...	5	—	31	37	13	30	48	—	36	37	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
Aug. ...	21	11	11	27	10	30	48	25	51	30	64 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sept. ...	46	53	10	22	20	70 $\frac{3}{4}$	55	32	46	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{3}{4}$
Oct. ...	14	40	15	45	35	67	39	—	51	46	33
Nov. ...	—	65	18	11	20	66	24	26	108	44	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dec. ...	43	37	22	3	1	67 $\frac{3}{4}$	30	24	31	19	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Totals .	335	340	392	532	190	734 $\frac{3}{4}$	719	398	763	596 $\frac{1}{2}$	535 $\frac{1}{2}$

An annual review usually means an indulgence of soul-searching in order to try and improve the means to better ends.

I feel that 1969 was a year of “improvements,” and I express my appreciation not only of the Council’s resolve to overcome cleansing problems, but also of the efforts of the Cleansing Supervisor (Mr. R. Elliott) and all the refuse collectors and mechanics who maintain this basic public health service which is an arduous task often carried out under extreme conditions.

Public Conveniences.

Alterations to Bondgate toilets were carried out during the year and usual repairs had to be carried out to keep pace with acts of vandalism in the other toilets.

APPENDIX

Comparisons in Vital Statistics during the years 1960-1969.

Vital Statistics		1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Birth Rate	...	17.6	17.0	18.0	18.9	19.2	19.7	17.6	17.9	16.9	16.6
Death Rate	...	13.7	14.4	14.2	14.4	14.1	13.7	14.0	13.6	13.8	13.4
Infant Mortality Rate	...	43.2	35.2	47.0	24.8	35.2	36.8	33.8	26.1	17.2	16.0

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases Notified		1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Pulmonary Cases	...	7	20	15	14	11	11	11	10	19	11
Non-Pulmonary Cases	...	4	7	1	2	2	3	—	—	1	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES — Notifications and Deaths

(excluding Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning)

* Not notifiable from 4th October, 1968.

N = Notifications.

D = Deaths.

	1960		1961		1962		1963		1964		1965		1966		1967		1968		1969	
	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	2	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	12	—	1	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	9	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	309	—	639	—	127	1	664	—	371	—	765	—	61	—	657	—	82	—	434	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Pneumonia	19	13	30	17	24	16	19	25	12	10	17	14	20	23	10	9	7	15	—	—
*Puerperal Pyrexia	10	—	32	—	39	—	24	—	42	—	32	—	35	—	24	—	25	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	15	—	20	—	9	—	5	—	39	—	24	—	14	—	20	—	10	—	28	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	67	—	57	—	3	—	97	—	40	—	72	—	46	—	34	—	9	—	18	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	434	13	781	17	205	17	821	25	508	10	914	14	179	24	749	9	144	15	481	—

SUMMARY OF DEATHS BY SEX AND AGE GROUPS—1969

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years								
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over
Total All Causes ...	M	219	1	2	—	2	4	3	6	24	47	66	64
	F	190	5	1	—	—	1	1	5	9	21	46	101

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